



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,670	12/31/2003	Scott Christensen		1669

37275 7590 03/23/2006

LAW OFFICE OF A.P. DURIGON  
20 EUSTIS STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02140

EXAMINER

BOLLINGER, DAVID H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/707,670	CHRISTENSEN, SCOTT	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David H. Bollinger	3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9-11 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,8,12 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>31 Dec. 2003</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

Art Unit: 3653

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4 through 7, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horwitt.

Note the ring 40 through which sheets of tissue are drawn. See Figure 1.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4 through 6, 9 through 11, 14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee.

Note the ring 20 through which sheets of tissue are drawn through the opening 21.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4 through 6, 9, 11, 14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hudson.

Note the ring 9 through which sheets are drawn through the opening 11.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horwitt in view of Medoff.

Horwitt as interpreted above in paragraph 2 teaches everything except the stack being in a flexible package.

Art Unit: 3653

Medoff teaches providing a stack of sheets or tissues with a flexible package.

See Figure 1 and lines 79-85.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a stack enclosed in a flexible package in the Horwitt device for the ease of replacing a depleted stack.

7. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Lee.

Lee as interpreted above in paragraph 3 teaches everything except the stack being in a flexible package.

Medoff teaches providing a stack of sheets or tissues with a flexible package.

See Figure 1 and lines 79-85.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a stack enclosed in a flexible package in the Lee device for the ease of replacing a depleted stack.

8. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hudson in view of Medoff.

Hudson as interpreted above in paragraph 4 teaches everything except the stack being a flexible package.

Medoff teaches providing a stack of sheets or tissues with a flexible package.

See Figure 1 and lines 79-85.

Art Unit: 3653

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a stack enclosed in a flexible package in the Hudson device for the ease of replacing a depleted stack.

9. Claims 3, 8, 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David H. Bollinger whose telephone number is 571-272-6935. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki, can be reached on 571-272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

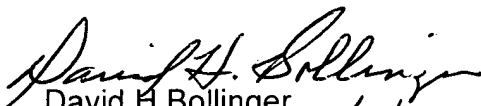
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 3653

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
David H Bollinger  
Primary Examiner 3/19/06  
Art Unit 3653